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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,049	06/24/2003	Charles S. Vann	4424 CI	1884
22896	7590	09/19/2006		
MILA KASAN, PATENT DEPT. APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS 850 LINCOLN CENTRE DRIVE FOSTER CITY, CA 94404			EXAMINER GORDON, BRIAN R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1743	

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/603,049

Applicant(s)

VANN ET AL.

Examiner

Brian R. Gordon

Art Unit

1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 51-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 51-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 51- 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reed, US 2003/0215956.

Reed discloses multi-well plates and column arrays in which samples (e.g., cell lysates containing nucleic acids of interest, such as RNA) can be analyzed and/or processed. In one embodiment, the microfiltration arrangement is a multilayer structure, including (i) a column plate having an array of minicolumns into which samples can be placed. Other disclosed features of the invention provide for the automated covering or heat-sealing of filtrate samples separately collected in an array of wells (abstract).

In one embodiment, the method includes the steps of (i) picking up a clear heat-sealable sheet (optically clear film); (ii) placing the sheet over open upper ends of the wells; and (iii) pressing a conformable heated surface against the sheet, from a side opposite the collection tray, with sufficient pressure such that the sheet is heat-sealed to the collection tray over the open upper ends of the wells (paragraph 0073).

Apertures or vents, such as 28, extend through the upper planar surface 25 of collection plate 24 (substrate with array of wells). For reasons that will become apparent, at least one aperture should be located adjacent each collection well. The apertures 28 permit fluid communication between the regions above and below the plate 24. By this construction, a vacuum drawn from beneath the collection plate will extend to the regions above the plate and inside the wells.

A carriage (holding area/seat) configured to carry one of the arrays and adapted for linear reciprocal motion in either of two directions along a first, generally horizontal, axis from a neutral position whereat the arrays are substantially axially aligned.

Driven roller 76 is in mechanical communication with a motor, such as 82, through a power train assembly, as indicated generally by the reference numeral 84. When motor 82 is energized, belt 70 will move, causing carriage 60 to slide along the carrier rails 64, 66, with the direction of movement depending on the rotation of the drive shaft 86 extending from motor 82. Motor 82 may be of any suitable, known type, e.g., a stepper motor, servo motor, or similar device (indexing means paragraph 0163).

The present invention contemplates real time fluorescence-based measurements of nucleic acid amplification products (such as PCR) as described, for example, in PCT

Publication WO 95/30139 and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/235,411, each of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference. Generally, an excitation beam is directed through a sealing cover sheet into each of a plurality of fluorescent mixtures separately contained in an array of reaction wells, wherein the beam has appropriate energy to excite the fluorescent centers in each mixture. Measurement of the fluorescence intensity indicates, in real time, the progress of each reaction (paragraph 0222).

4. Claims 51- 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Madden et al.; 6,783,732 and/or Bodner et al., 6,451,261.

Madden et al. and Bodner et al. both disclose the same inventions of Reed as described above.

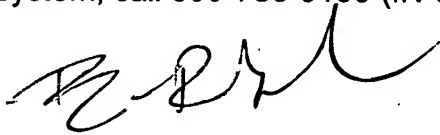
Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Jovanovich, Stevan B. et al.; Barth; Phillip W. et al.; Little; Daniel P. et al.; Jovanovich; Stevan B. et al.; Ecker; David J. et al.; Nova; Michael P. et al.; Ecker; David J. et al.; Schembri, Carol T.; Tagge; Christopher D. et al.; and Matson; Robert S. disclose processing devices and methods for multiwell plates.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian R. Gordon whose telephone number is 571-272-1258. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, with 2nd and 4th F off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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